

2017 Annual Heritage Report

Lolo National Forest



Skookum Butte Lookout wrapped by fire crew during The Lolo Peak Fire, August 2017

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Lolo National Forest

2017 Calendar Year

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Part I: Executive Summary

Table 1: Summary of Lolo NF activities in 2017

No Inventory	Inventory NE	Inventory NAE	SHPO/THPO consultations	Inventory AE	Acres Surveyed	New Sites	Sites Monitored
21	2	5	7	0	218*	0	79

The Lolo National Forest (NF) 2017 Annual Heritage Report provides a summarized account of the Forest Heritage Program accomplishments during the calendar year. The report also satisfies an annual requirement of the Region One Programmatic Agreement (PA)¹ for documenting Forest Service program administration in accordance with Sections 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

The calendar year presented Forest Heritage Program staff with numerous small and large National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) projects as well as the required Section 110 responsibilities. As a result, 33 individual projects were reviewed under Section 106 or Section 110. In accordance with the 2014 PA and standard review practices, seven projects required inventories (or field investigations) and 21 projects yielded No Inventory (or no field investigation) decisions. Five additional projects were consulted upon with Montana State Historic Preservation office (SHPO) during the year for our Section 110 work. Project reports submitted to SHPO in CY2017 yielded 218 acres; *however, much more acreage was covered and will be reported in CY18. No new sites were recorded, however four sites were evaluated for NRHP eligibility. In CY17, 76 sites were visited, including 18 Priority Heritage Assets (PHA).

Throughout the year, the Lolo National Forest Heritage Program consulted with the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (CSKT) of the Flathead Nation and the Nez Perce Tribe regarding undertakings requiring Section 106 review and Section 110 actions. Face to face visits with CSKT Tribal Preservation Department members occurred in May, with a Nez Perce THPO visit in June. The forest continues to consult effectively in person, by mail, phone and electronic communication.

Several Section 110 projects were conducted on the Lolo National Forest this year. Heritage Stewardship Enhancement (HSE)-funded projects included Phase V of the Big Hole Peak Lookout Passport in Time (PIT) project; a Multiproperty NRHP nomination (in collaboration with the Bitterroot NF) for three, L-4 lookouts on the Lolo NF and refurbishment of the 15 heavy larch cabin doors at Camp Paxson. For the eighth year, The Friends of Rock Creek continue their hard work on the Morgan-Case, Hogback and Rock Creek Cabins. Savenac Nursery celebrated its 22nd annual PIT project. Two volunteers helped us complete our workload in 2017.

Primarily Bacon delivered educational outreach to school students, teachers and members of the community during the 2017 Forest Discovery Days, Flathead NF Forest Discovery Days, Nature Walk, and Bonner Middle Schools. Bacon and Karuzas presented at their respective district orientations, educating both new and current employees about cultural resources and how to identify them in the field to report to the Heritage Program.

¹ *Programmatic Agreement Among the United States Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Northern Region (Montana), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation and the Montana State Historic Preservation Officer Regarding Cultural Resources Management on National Forests in the State of Montana* (1995).

The Lolo NF Heritage Program continues with Sydney Bacon and Erika Karuzas as East Zone (Missoula, Ninemile and Seeley Lake Ranger Districts) and West Zone (Superior and Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger Districts) Archaeologists, respectively. We were again unable to hire seasonals for the 2017 field season. Bacon had the great fortune of two volunteers working on various projects, predominantly fieldwork or site form preparation. Karuzas had two volunteers who worked with her on various projects including field survey and entering site data in to our GIS database.

Bacon continues the position of Region One Heritage INFRA data steward; and attended the National Heritage Infrastructure Management Initiative (NHIMI) Regional Leaders Team meeting in Tucson, AZ on October 22-26. Migration of all tabular data in INFRA and spatial data in NRM SDE into the new architecture, 'NRM Heritage' is slowly progressing. She continues to provide guidance for the imperfect INFRA Heritage Module to heritage staff across the region.

Bacon and Karuzas prepared portions of this report relative to their Zone. Questions should be addressed to the corresponding author.

Part II: Fire Season 2017

To say the Lolo NF had a huge fire season is an understatement. During the 2017 fire season, multiple wildfires burned over 227,000 acres of the Lolo NF. Bacon served as a Resource Advisor (READ) for about 75 days on the Sunrise Fire; gaining valuable knowledge but greatly inhibiting her ability to complete any other work assignments.

Liberty Fire- Missoula/Seeley Lake RD

The 29, 000-acre Liberty Fire was ignited by lightning on July 15, 2017, 17 miles southeast of Arlee, MT on the Flathead Indian Reservation and the Lolo NF. Bacon provided the READ on the Liberty Fire with cultural resource information and protection measures for one historic property, the Gold Creek Peak Cabin (24MO0314). Despite fuel reduction efforts by firefighters, the cabin was consumed by the fire. Two other historic lookout sites will be visited in the spring as a result of Burned Area Emergency Rehabilitation (BAER) efforts.

Lolo Peak Fire

The Lolo peak Fire was ignited by lightning on July 15, 2017 southwest of Lolo, MT near Lolo Peak. The fire eventually grew to almost 54,000 acres on the Lolo and Bitterroot NFs, with a portion burning in the Selway-Bitterroot Wilderness area. A literature review prepared for the incident READ yielded two trapper's cabins in the South Fork of Lolo Creek. Both cabins were in poor condition at their recording in the 1980's and recommended ineligible. As a result, no protection measures were warranted for the cabins. A site visit in the spring (depending on the presence of snags) is planned.

Moose Fire- Plains/Thompson Falls RD and Kootenai NF

The Moose Peak fire was ignited by lightning on August 30, 2017 in Sanders County on the Kootenai National Forest, about 13 miles east of Trout Creek which grew to about 14,000 acres. About 2,000 acres spilled over on the Lolo National Forest. Sydney Bacon provided information to the Lolo NF READ about site 24SA0086, culturally modified trees. The CMT's were visited by the READ and District Ranger Hattis, as well as the READ from the Kootenai NF. The READ from the Kootenai NF informed Syd Bacon that a CMT was weakened by the fire that had to be mitigated. The Lolo NF portion of the fire is under review for a fire salvage sale and a Programmatic Agreement is being developed to survey the treatment units and site 24SA0086.

Sheep Gap Fire- Plains RD

The Sheep Gap Fire was ignited by lightning on August 29, 2017 in the Eddy Creek drainage south of the city of Plains. It grew to over 25,000 acres. Luckily, the Sheep Gap fire was fully encompassed in the original Swamp Eddy proposed project. The assigned Lolo NF READ contacted Sydney Bacon about heritage concerns. Sydney informed her that there were no known sites that had wooden features within the perimeter and planned action area. Unfortunately, site 24SA0122, Poacher Gulch was burned that had wooden features within the site. Another Lolo NF READ went back to the Poacher Gulch site and inspected it for the West Zone Arch and confirmed the site was burned. BAER funding has been obligated to directionally fall the trees in the rock terrace structure. The site will be visited this upcoming year. The other previously recorded sites, a historic road (not evaluated) and irrigation ditch

(not eligible) burned, but no adverse affect to the sites from the fire. The Sheep Gap Section 106 report was submitted February 20, 2018.

Sunrise Fire, Ninemile and Superior RD

The Sunrise fire was ignited by lightning on July 16, 2017 about 8 miles south of Superior, Montana, west of Interstate 90. This ~27,000-acre fire burned between the Quartz and Trout Creek drainages, within the Historic Cedar Quartz Mining District (24MN0245). Bacon served as a Resource Advisor on the fire for an extended period with a variety of duties unrelated to cultural resources. However, most of the previously recorded cultural resources affected by the fire were visited as well as several others that exist within the arterial drainages. Several historic mining sites were visited for the first time since the original recording.

Vegetation was cleared from around the Verde Creek Mining Cabin (24MN0309), remaining Big Nugget Mining Cabins (24MN0223) and Quartz Guard Station (24MN0203) and sprinkler systems were installed around the buildings. The latter two were wrapped with structure protection.

Bacon is in the progress of compiling a Burned Area report including site updates and NRHP evaluations as a result of her READ duties during the summer. Karuzas has already submitted the Sunrise Fire Salvage Section 106 report and SHPO concurred with the findings. Currently a Programmatic Agreement is being developed to survey the additional units brought forward during public comment.

Rice Ridge Fire- Seeley Lake RD

The Rice Ridge Fire was ignited by lightening on July 24, 2017 east of Seeley Lake. It eventually burned 160,000 of Forest Service, State and Private land including the Bob Marshall Wilderness. Although Lolo unavailable to assist in the field, Bacon was able to assess the area for cultural resources and provide information to the READs working on the incident. Previously recorded sites within the fire perimeter include two Historic Properties- Monture Guard Station (24PW0047) and Morrell Mountain Lookout (24MO0xx), NRHP ineligible Center Ridge Lookout (24GN0069). Some cultural resources exist in the wilderness area within the fire perimeter; it is unknown whether they were affected.

A salvage timber harvest project is proposed within the Rice Ridge Fire. The Lolo NF has just completed the public scoping process; the Heritage Program will begin consultation efforts with MTSHPO and the CSKT in early 2018.

Part III: Forest Inventory Strategy

The Forest Heritage Program continues to use the *Site Identification Strategy Prepared for Bitterroot, Flathead, and Lolo National Forests* (SIS), developed in accordance with the PA and approved by the MT SHPO in 2003. The SIS provides information useful for predictive modeling across the forest, directed towards identifying high, medium and low probability areas for previously unrecorded prehistoric and historic cultural resources.

In 2017, Heritage staff tested the SIS model by conducting pedestrian surveys of some projects in areas across the forest identified as having low to high probability. Forest personnel feel the SIS is an effective tool for predictive modeling of site potential across the forest. As our GIS skills have been honed, we have applied slope gradient and hydrology to our predictions of site probability areas.

However, on-the-ground observations of slope and hydrology still prove the most reliable method for assessing and verifying site potential areas. We have identified issues with the slope percentages in relation to low, medium and high probability areas with topographic maps used alone. Certain areas affected by glacial activity have had poor reliability in the original topographic surveys, unable to capture the undulating landscape.

The Forest Heritage Program will continue to use and test the SIS on future Section 106 undertakings and Section 110 inventories. Any new information that may become known would be assessed and subsequently incorporated into the Lolo National Forest site identification methodology. LIDAR data will continue to assist in site identification on East Zone projects on the Seeley Lake Ranger District. LIDAR is a remote sensing technology that is captured by aerial flights over the area of interest and then projected as a layer on a GIS map. It is instrumental in identifying areas of high probability within a project area, as well as areas previously disturbed by road building, skid trail corridors and other associated timber harvest practices. This technology accurately illustrates topography where the traditional topographic maps have failed.

Part IV: American Indian Consultation

The Lolo National Forest encompasses lands traditionally occupied by peoples of the Salish, Pend d'Oreille, Kootenai, Coeur d'Alene, and Nez Perce. Today, the Forest consults on a government-to-government basis with the Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Nation (CSKT) and the Nez Perce Tribe. Coordination with Coeur d'Alene has begun with a proposed project on the West Zone. These consultations help to ensure that historic properties that may be of religious and cultural significance to tribal parties are considered during planning and implementation of agency actions.

Consultations with CSKT continue to occur face-to-face, by telephone, email and surface mail communication.

Heritage staff and met with CSKT Tribal Preservation Department members on two occasions during the calendar year. In February, Karuzas met with the CSKT to talk about the Copper King Fire Salvage project Addendum and Programmatic Agreement. On May 11, Bacon and Karuzas traveled along with Regional Heritage Program Manager Jorie Clark to Pablo to meet with Tribal Historic Preservation Officer Kyle Felsman and other staff members. We provided updates of project status of the ongoing Soldier Butler Project as well as the upcoming Missoula Electrical Cooperative (MEC) proposal to bury the overhead powerlines along Highway 12. Other discussions included Brewster's Kitchen, the Lewis and Clark Trail in the Blue Mountain Recreation Area, and the Lolo NF Site Stewardship Program. For the West Zone, Jam Cracker, Swamp Eddy, Nancy Creek, Lookout Ski Area Expansion and St. Regis Redd Bull projects were discussed as well as Bend EMB, Shorty Redux, Nancy Creek Smallwood, Thompson River Benches, Baldy Mountain EMB, Stateline Salvage and Quartz Guard Station Building Disposal. We also informed the group of projects across the forest that were active, including Cutoff, Cedar-Thom and Little Eddy on the West Zone.

For the Copper King Fire Salvage project, CSKT survey crew assisted Erika Karuzas surveying ten miles along Thompson River. During our week of survey together, we located campsites, harvesting locations and good places for fishing. The last unit ended up having camas all through it, over a mile long! Salish and Pend d'Oreille elders came out to the site the following week talking about the importance of camas at this location. Additional visits to the Salish and Pend d'Oreille long house occurred over the summer, even, when Karuzas was on maternity leave. The Salish language committee members had an addition site visit to a rock art site associated with the travel route on the Ninemile divide.

A face-to-face consultation also occurred with the Nez Perce THPO Patrick Baird on June 1. Discussion continued regarding the ongoing work in the Nez Perce Trail Corridor along Highway 12, funded by the Region 1 Nez Perce NHT Program. We also discussed the MEC powerline project along Highway 12. Other topics included the multi-agency Nez Perce Trail Comprehensive Management Plan, possibility of FS acquisition of land previously owned by Plum Creek Timber Company (PCTC) in the Nez Perce Trail NHL corridor and Traditional Land Use Studies completed by the Nez Perce Tribe.

Additionally, the West Zone has made contact with Coeur d'Alene THPO, Jill Wagner, to discuss the Redd Bull project, which encompasses the traditional areas for the Coeur d'Alene tribe.

The Forest Heritage Program will continue to consult with the CSKT and the Nez Perce Tribes at least annually or on a project-by project basis as appropriate for Section 106 review of proposed projects and for Section 110 inventories on the Lolo National Forest. The Coeur d'Alene tribes shall be contacted as projects are in their traditional use areas.

Part V: Section 110 Projects

Forest Discovery Days

Bacon and Karuzas discussed archaeology to local 5th grade students on May 10 and 12th at Forest Discovery Days, a program sponsored by the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation. Eight, 25-minute presentations were given throughout each day at Pattee Canyon Picnic Area. The students gained knowledge of archaeology and history of the area via demonstration and hands-on learning.

Nature Walk

On May 1st and 3rd, Bacon gave eight, 25-minute presentations each day to third grade students during the annual Nature Walk, an educational experience developed in collaboration between the Lolo National Forest and the Missoula County Weed District. The students learned about archaeology through an informative presentation at Maclay Flats Recreation Area including hands-on activities including atlatl throwing and the preparation of ochre using a mortar and pestle.

Bonner Middle School

On October 9, Bacon made her annual visit to Mr. Huiskens's 6th grade class at Bonner School. Two, 40-minute presentations were given to Bonner 6th graders regarding local archaeology and history.

Lolo NF Site Stewards/Volunteers

The Lolo NF Heritage Program is fortunate to have two active Site Stewards providing assistance in monitoring important sites on the East Zone of the Forest. They have completed the necessary training provided by the Montana Site Stewardship Program, a subset of Project Archaeology out of Bozeman.

John Green is a site steward for the Stony Creek Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) camp (24MO0142). He also has helped considerably in visiting and recording Recreational Residence Cabins along the shores of Seeley Lake, and conducting field survey for the Soldier Butler Project on Ninemile RD.

Ron Schlader, retired FS, continues site stewardship for a string of several prehistoric sites along the Montana/Idaho Divide. These sites have not been inspected since their original recordings in the 1970's. In 2017, he was able to visit five additional lithic scatters and provide the much-needed information including access, GPS location, recent photographs and any changes since their last visit. He even recorded a cairn on the Idaho side and submitted the final form to the Heritage Program Manager on the Nez Perce-Clearwater NF. Ron continued a similar journey along the Reservation Divide to accomplish the fieldwork for the Soldier Butler Project on the Ninemile RD, monitoring seven sites along the ridgeline. Ron also assisted in the survey of five potential dispersed camping areas on the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger Districts.

Superior Junior High

In December of 2017, Superior junior high students came to the district office to learn about the 1910 fire. Karuzas talked to the students about how the 1910 fire shaped FS policy and how that still effects

our suppression efforts today. We also talked about the Sunrise fire and how that was in their back yard.

Savenac Nursery 22nd Annual Passport in Time

The Lolo National Forest, Superior Ranger District host the 22nd Annual Historic Savenac Nursery Passport in Time project this year in the second week of July once again. This year we had over 1400 volunteer hours donated to maintaining our historic nursery. What is so great about having the longest running PIT project, it is a place where friends come to meet, catch up on each others lives, and at the same time, work at a place that they have grown to love. Each year, our Savenac family grows a little bit bigger as we have more volunteers attend.



Our primary project this year the East Cottage makeover. We hired a contractor to prepare the building for us before the PIT crews arrived. When the crews came, they had to tape the windows and then let the painting begin. It was an all week effort, but the cottage looks so nice once again. The contractor also fixed the aluminum roof. We had our stellar crew from the previous year plus the addition of a few new folks to Savenac helping the building crew. There were

small holes in the aluminum roof that were patched with in-kind material. The building has not looked so good in so long! The local mayor of Savenac, Coon Dog, was quite happy with his makeover.

Every year we have our needs that include hard manual labor, gardening, general landscaping, and carpentry work. From the water leak over the winter, we had to remove the huge mound of dirt and rocks from the middle of the administration field. We also removed many dead branches from the spruce tree that grew close to there. In the arboretum, the dead branches were removed from the trees, pine cones raked up and the trail rails were fixed. The iris beds were also cleaned, and a few tires with iris growing in them were removed. We had one volunteer who made it his goal to see if he could removed over 100 wheel barrel loads of debris out of the visitor use area. I think he accomplished his goal this year.



We had new help this year that had plenty of supervision. They were pretty good at painting, and mostly did an excellent job keeping the smiles on all of the other PIT volunteers. Most of all, they knew each of the volunteers favorite cookies and ensured at break, that everyone got to have their chocolate chip, snickerdoodle, or gingersnap.

Our painting crews painted the weather station, interpretive posts, snow covers for the windows, electrical box blind, and for once, not a single picnic table. What a relief that was to our volunteers!

We had the help of the Youth Conservation Corps work with a few of the PIT volunteers. They built a trail so that we can access and interpret the seed extractor. The crew barely finished by Friday, but had already started to plan a new trail to make a loop into the back forty.



The Superior Ranger District has poured their devotion and recreation funding into Savenac who have made this the longest running Passport in Time Project across the entire United States. That is no small feat. As our District Ranger stated, "It started with one gallon of paint." Each year Savenac continues to need the Passport in Time projects and the volunteers who come, many have come for multiple years some nearly all twenty years. We are ever grateful for their help.



FY 2017 Heritage Stewardship Enhancement Projects

Big Hole Peak Lookout PIT Project: Priority Project 1

Big Hole Lookout is located on the Plains Thompson Falls Ranger Districts of the Lolo NF, three miles in the back country. This year \$15,000 in HSE funding was awarded in order to continue the process of restoring the lookout after we were evacuated in 2016 from the Copper King Wildfire. That was an experience I hope I do not have to go through again.

Once again we had several partners including: Passport in Time volunteers, Wild Horse Plains Back Country Horsemen (BCH), Bitterroot National Forest Helicopter Crew, Sanders County Youth Conservation Corps, Lolo National Forest (NF) Plains Thompson Falls Fire and Trail Crews; Lolo NF Seeley Lake Ranger District Pack string, the Region 1 Historic Preservation Team, and the Bitterroot NF Wilderness Pack String.

The project was planned to span over two weeks to complete the project. The HPT Leader, Cathy Bickenheuser, was unsure how I had closed the lookout, and just in case we decided to plan the project for two weeks if the building suffered damaged from Karuzas taking it off of the building jacks or damage from the suppression actions from the wildfire. We were fortunate that the building was lowered off the jacks decently, and she did not have to do too much to get us back to where we left off from the previous year to begin the project.



All of our volunteers returned from last to finish the project. In addition we had daily pack support from the Wild Horse Plains BCH, bringing in supplies needed from the local hardware store, it truly was a pony express.

The Bitterroot National Forest and Lolo NF, Seeley Lake Ranger District packers came out to help us bring in the equipment at the beginning of the project. The stock packed in multiple trips over three days bringing up over one hundred loads of food, water, equipment, historic preservation tools, and camp gear.

As soon as the Historic Preservation Team arrived, Cathy, Doug, George, Bryon and Emer; began working on getting the campsite ready and the lookout ready for the arrival of the volunteers the following day. All of the contents that was in the lookout was emptied from the building, the wood stove, all the furniture, and the lumber that was stored inside the Lookout over winter. Good news, the rat proofing completed in 2016 was successful. There was a small amount of pack rat droppings that had to be cleaned, but those rats came in during the wildfire operations when the Structure Wrap Team left a small opening at the door jam. When the structure wrap was removed in 2016, pack rat treats were left inside, and the door was blocked, and we had no more issues with the rats!

On Tuesday, the volunteers arrived with the District Recreation Staff and West Zone Arch, Karuzas. The HPT installed the floor, applied 3 coats polyurethane, and reinstalled all the furniture, and wood stove barrier by mid-Friday. The PIT volunteers continued to remove staples from the Lookout, plus touch up

painting on the exterior and interior. The logs were daubed and then painted. With the left over mortar, a step was stabilized to enter the lookout. The door and door jamb were installed and painted.



The Plains Thompson Falls YCC employees came up three of the five days we were working at the site. The YCC constructed / improved the trail on the north side of the Lookout by building a rock wall with four bags of mortar to hold it together. They also installed new posts for a replacement Big Hole Lookout sign, straightened the hitch rail, painted, and picked up all of the construction debris around the lookout. Construction debris included 10 gallons of nails and small metal fragments, wood chunks from the log replacements over the three years, and other plastic debris around the site.

We had an ad hoc ribbon cutting ceremony for the PIT volunteers Friday morning when the restoration project was complete. This left only the painting crew behind. On Saturday, two of the three volunteers left by noon. At this time, we decided that the project was complete and decided to pull camp. Big Hole Lookout was restored!



We knew the Bitterroot National Forest Helicopter was sitting at the station over the weekend. In just a few phone calls, we had ordered the helicopter to arrive early Sunday morning and haul out camp, paid for by the Wild Horse Plains Back Country Horsemen from a Sanders County Resource Advisory Grant.

Our week was bittersweet, joyous at the thought of completing the project, and yet, the project was done, and we knew that this was the end of a great project, but we also realized it would be a while before we would be able to work together again or if at all. Great memories were made, shared, and enjoyed. Big Hole Lookout is now ready for the Cabin Rental program, those who get to hike to the lookout, we hope they enjoy the area as much as we have.



HSE Camp Paxson Doors: Priority Project 2

Camp Paxson was established in the 1920's as a summer camp and continues to serve the public as a special place to recreate along the shores of Seeley Lake. The fifteen camping cabins, impressive lodge and caretakers' cabins, all of log construction, were listed on the NRHP in 1986. Camp Paxson receives a high amount of use all year round with weddings and family reunions in the summertime and outdoor education for local school groups in the winter. We are fortunate to have the Camp Paxson Preservation Project oversee operations at Camp Paxson, with John Torma as the Camp Manager.

The doors to the cabins demonstrate typical wear and tear including broken hardware, poorly patched holes and prolific graffiti, either etched in or written with pen by many campers over the years. Although some of this graffiti is 'historic', most of it has been scrawled on in recent years. In FY17, \$20,000 was received to address the problem. Work started in January of 2017.



All exterior doors were removed on the cabins, making sure to number each door for accuracy. The thick, heavy larch doors were hoisted onto a snowmobile sled to the truck and hauled to the R1 Preservation Team Shop in Missoula. The screen doors, left on the cabins, were nailed shut to keep the elements and any critters out. Over the next couple of months, HPT members Cathy Bickenheuser and Jack Poppin worked away in their shop with some assistance from Sydney Bacon, intern Leandra Sherrer and volunteer John Green. We assisted in the Preservation Team

shop to plane, sand and perform minor repairs on the doors. Because of the variation of color, shape and degree of alteration of the doors, each one had to be approached individually rather than a single overall method. Some graffiti was deeply etched and required the use of a planer in order to remove it.



While Cathy toiled away plugging up holes, Jack Poppin had the difficult task of matching the stain colors. He spent a lot of time experimenting with multiple brands of stain and combining shades of brown to come up with a match. As one may assume, every door was a slightly different shade from the one before. This made for an interesting challenge for Jack.

After the doors dried, historically accurate door hardware was installed. The hardware includes a locking mechanism, allowing cabin users increased security with the ability to lock their doors from the inside.

The doors were reinstalled on the cabins in late spring, prior to the influx of Forest Visitors at Camp Paxson. The Lolo NF Heritage Program is indebted to the R1 HSE Program, the R1 HPT, the Camp Paxson Preservation Project and the Seeley Lake Ranger District for the continued support, training and funding for historic preservation projects in Region 1.



Lolo/Bitterroot NFs Multi-Property Nomination Project: Priority Project 2 (2016 continuation)



This multi-year project is in collaboration with the Bitterroot NF Heritage Program to nominate several historic L-4 style lookouts to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). West Fork Butte Lookout and Mineral Peak Lookout are on the Missoula Ranger District (RD) and Double Arrow Lookout is on the Seeley Lake RD (photos below are in that order). All three lookouts have undergone restoration efforts by the Region One Historic Preservation Team in recent years. West Fork Butte and Double Arrow Lookouts are popular on the Lolo NF Recreational Cabin Rental

Program. Mineral Peak Lookout has undergone several restoration efforts including a Passport in Time (PIT) Project in 2006.



Janene Caywood, under contract with the Bitterroot NF, visited all three of the lookouts in 2016, gathering photos and other necessary information to complete the multiple property NRHP Nomination. She spent the winter months writing up the documentation for the three Lolo NF Lookouts, and presented her work at the May 2017 Montana NRHP review board meeting.

Following the review board approval, Jorie Clark submitted the Multiple Property and Individual Nomination Forms to the Keeper of the National Register in Washington, DC. The Keeper concurred on the recommendations, and all three lookouts were NRHP listed in January 2018. The Lolo NF intends to install National Register plaques at all three lookouts.



Friends of Upper Rock Creek Work Accomplishments



This year marked the eighth consecutive work party organized by the Friends of Rock Creek, a 501 (c) (3) non-profit organization that, in 2009, established a partnership agreement with the Missoula Ranger District of the Lolo National Forest. With the financial assistance of the Willett Foundation and coordination with the Missoula RD Recreation Program, the Friends assist with preservation maintenance of three historic properties in Upper Rock Creek. These are the Rock Creek Cabin and Hogback and Morgan-Case Homesteads. Hogback Cabin and Morgan-Case Homestead are on the cabin rental program and popular with the public. Rock Creek Cabin is

maintained for administrative use by the District staff and volunteers.

The Willett foundation provided most of the funding again this year, with the Missoula Ranger District contributing \$1200 in materials and supplies for use during the project. Eleven long time volunteers, one from as far away as South Carolina, spent the middle of May sprucing up the buildings and grounds.



An unusual project at The Morgan-Case Homestead has piqued the interest of many. The Friends are in the process of reconstructing the Barn, which collapsed almost 40 years ago. With MTSHPO concurrence, the Friends removed the structural debris from the interior and were able to salvage some of the wall logs. The floor plan was measured and many photos were taken, revealing a raised milking platform and several stalls.

The plan was to meet again in September to continue the Barn Reconstruction project. Unfortunately, the Sapphire Complex Fire, burning in the immediate area, prevented any further work during the season. The project will resume this May with an additional workweek in September 2018.

Hogback Homestead received interior improvements such as painting the kitchen, staining and varnishing the wainscoting in the living room. The front and rear porches were re-stained, the outhouse window was painted and a new stand was constructed and installed for the interpretive sign at the front of the drive.

Unfortunately, vandalism continues at Rock Creek Cabin. During the winter of 2016-2017, someone kicked in the side door of the cabin. A window in the woodshed of the combination building was broken. Repairs were made on the door and window during the week by the group.

Routine maintenance such as vacuuming, mopping and window washing as well as outdoor upkeep like mowing, weeding, raking and general landscaping were also accomplished. Chimneys were swept in all three cabins.



Between the 11 volunteers, **624 hours** of work were completed. When valued at the standard Federal rate of \$24.14/hour, amounts to a labor contribution of over **\$15,063!**

Part VI: Public Objections

The Lolo National Forest received no public objections related to concerns over cultural resources or historic properties for undertakings proposed or implemented in 2017. Public comments are received through the forest's NEPA public outreach methods rather than specific Section 106 public outreach.

Part VII: Out-Year/Ongoing Projects of Concern

The Lolo National Forest will continue to assess potential environmental impacts on several large NEPA projects in 2017. Smaller NEPA projects will continue to be assessed at Zone Meetings.

The **12 Tamarack Assessment Area** is on the Superior Ranger District north and west of St. Regis, Montana. The 12 Tamarack project is 69,000 acres with 17,300 treatment acres. We have entered into a project-specific Programmatic Agreement with SHPO and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) to complete fieldwork within ten years. All fieldwork was completed in FY2015. A brief update was provided to MTSHPO in 2016. A final report is forthcoming. Timber harvest has already begun in many units.

Borax Salvage Sale, Stateline Salvage Sale is a proposed project on the Superior Ranger District, near Lookout Pass, north of Interstate 90. The project was surveyed for the Borax sale which had one not evaluated site within units in 2015. Then the project was expanded and renamed to the **Stateline Salvage Sale** to include more area which include more buildings within the units, this survey was completed in 2016. However, the project has been deferred for the Forest Priority project, Copper King Fire Salvage Sale. This project appears to have been deferred even longer and unknown if it will be dropped.

Brewster's Kitchen is a proposed project in Rock Creek on the Missoula Ranger District. Project involves forest health improvements including thinning, harvest and underburn including recently acquired parcels of former Champion/Plum Creek lands. Prehistoric campsites have been identified nearby and the area is known for historic mining. Due to the proximity of the Sapphire Complex Fire, land within the proposed project area has burned and the project has been shelved for reassessment at a later date.

Bonneville Power Association has one ongoing project on the Forest this year that spanned from Garrison Junction to Seattle. The projects include refibering old optic lines, installing new substations, repairing old substations and maintaining access roads. This project has been broken into subsections, with the implementation continuing into 2017 from the Garrison-Taft refibering project.

Camp Paxson Preservation Project (CPPP) manages the permit on the NRHP-listed property on Seeley Lake (24MO0077). In late 2016, CPPP approached the Forest Service with drawings from Means, MacArthur and Wells (MMW) Architects proposing to increase the size of the Caretaker's Cabin to accommodate year-round use on site. Unfortunately, the proposal of adding a hyphenated addition to the rear of the building would constitute an Adverse Effect to the Historic Property. As a result, several discussions have occurred between the CPPP, MMW, MTSHPO and Forest Service personnel. The R1 Historic Preservation Team has drafted several letters of justification to the Seeley Lake District Ranger and CPP. A formal letter of response to CPPP regarding the FS decision is pending District Ranger review and approval.

Cedar Thom was a project on the Superior Ranger District south and east of Superior Montana that was mostly completed in 2010 however, many sites were recorded in the report, and were not documented into site forms. During the implementation meeting this information was revealed. After talking with SHPO Compliance Officer, Jessica Bush, would like the sites to be fully recorded and evaluated if possible from the notes, we are still working when able to get to the sites in this project, but we did not resurvey any of the sites in 2016 or 2017. If we have a survey crew for 2018, we should be able to get back to these sites to update them and submit in 2018.

Cinkers Jail is on the Superior Ranger District approximately 11 miles southeast of Superior Montana. In 2015, we contacted SHPO about the installing a temporary roof to protect the rock structure with our plans to stabilize the walls and then repair the roof in 2017. We were planning on completing most of the work through a contract funded by the Heritage Stewardship Enhancement (HSE) grants, however, we will not be able to complete this project in 2017, but we are postponing for one year to 2018. The cause of the change is so that we will be able to complete the work at Big Hole Lookout. We talked to the Regional Archaeologist and the Historic Preservation Team who was in full support of the Lolo completing Big Hole Lookout in 2017 and submitting the HSE grant for 2018 towards Cinkers.

Goat Packer Bushnell is a large ecosystem maintenance burn proposed on the Superior and Plains Thompson Falls Ranger Districts along the CC divide north of I-90, east of Lookout Pass. The proposed project is looking at 62,000 acres for treatment. Units are still be defined and the project has been deferred. Continue to hold, we may have units ready for analysis in 2018. We are planning on surveying the high and medium probability areas within the 62,000 acres starting 2018. This project may take a couple of years for survey. Planned report submission is in 2019 or 2020.

Knowles Ecosystem Management Burn (EMB) is a proposed fuels reduction project on the Plains Ranger District, with the Flathead Indian Reservation boundary immediately to the east. The project involves prescribed understory burning to improve habitat for bighorn sheep and reduce understory fuels on land near the Reservation. Proposal includes treating ~4,000 acres of FS land as well as small amounts of Montana Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) and Montana Department of Resources and Natural Conservation (DNRC) land. The EMB analysis has been postponed due to the Lolo NF 2017 fire season. Collaboration with the CSKT has initiated with the intent of scheduling a field visit with THPO, Kyle Felsman and staff in the summer of 2018.

McInnis Recreational Residence Addition involves the new owners of a Recreational Residence cabin on Seeley Lake. The cabin (24MO1695) was evaluated as NRHP-eligible in 2016. Cabin owners would like to build and addition to the small living space but are hindered by several obstacles including old growth larch trees, the property boundary and visual integrity from the lakeside. Furthermore, the log structure does not have a foundation and deterioration is present in the sill logs. Several discussions have occurred between the proponents and their architect, the FS and the MTSHPO. FS decision involved proposing measures to avoid an adverse effect to the historic property with SHPO input. When presented with the SHPO recommendation approved by the District Ranger, the cabin owners decided to postpone the project for the time being.

Missoula Electric Cooperative (MEC) Powerline Burial is a project along the Highway 12 corridor on the Missoula Ranger District. MEC proposes to place underground all overhead powerlines on FS lands between Lolo, Montana and Lolo Pass at the Idaho Stateline. Powerline would be buried in the existing road right-of-way alongside other buried utility lines, and the overhead towers would be removed at ground level. Nez Perce THPO Patrick Baird has requested a complete pedestrian survey with shovel testing as needed. Field visits occurred with MEC Personnel in the spring. Due to the intensity of the 2017 fire season, including the nearby Lolo Peak Fire, the project has been postponed and will be contracted out to Historical Research Associates (HRA) of Missoula. Work is expected to resume in the spring.

Moose Peak Fire Salvage is a fire salvage project from the Moose Peak Fire noted above. On the Lolo NF, less than 2,000 acres burned, and a small salvage sale is proposed for 250 acres. The project was

not visited by an archaeologist, therefore a Programmatic Agreement is being developed to survey and submit the Section 106 report prior to implementation. Currently, Karuzas is working with CSKT on a partnership agreement to pay for CSKT field crews to survey along with Karuzas.

Ninemile Garage Door proposal is on at the Ninemile Remount Depot/Ranger District (24MO0300). The current doors, fabricated by the R1 Historic Preservation Team in 2004 are in need of replacement. The District proposed to replace the doors to better suit their needs, however the proposal would result in an adverse effect to the historic property. Several discussions occurred over the course of the year between Ninemile RD Personnel, the Lolo NF Heritage Program, MTSHPD and the Regional Heritage Program Manager. The project is unresolved at this time.

Redd Bull formerly known as Bull Trout Tributaries, is located on the Superior Ranger District west of St. Regis Montana, and south of Interstate 90. The proposed project is looking at the three main bull trout habitat streams and improving aquatic habitat in Big, Deep and John Creeks. The proposed project was defined in January 2016, and pre-field work began in the summer of 2016. The project was delayed again in 2016 and 2017 due to the wildfire seasons. The West Zone is looking at hiring two archaeology technicians to assist in this survey plus the Goat Packer Bushnell project.

Soldier Butler is located on the Ninemile Ranger District, within part of the Historic Ninemile Mining District. Public Scoping occurred in 2017 on this project including timber harvest, precommercial thinning to thin choked stands and reduce beetle kill in the area as a result of the Fires of 2000. Temporary road construction, road decommissioning and stream enhancement followed by understory burning are probable. The area is also in the Wildland/Urban Interface (WUI). Fieldwork initiated in 2015 and was completed in 2017. Due to the intensity of the 2017 fire season on the Lolo NF, this project has been postponed.

Swamp Eddy is now the **Sheep Gap Fire Salvage** is on the Plains/Thompson Falls Ranger Districts is south of Plains from Eddy Creek up to the CC divide out to Patrick's Knob within Forest Service lands. The survey has been completed for the project in 2015 but was delayed due to the Copper King Fire. This year, the project area burned and a report was submitted February 20, 2018. During public comment, additional units were brought forward that were outside of the original units. A Programmatic Agreement is being developed.

Thompson River Benches is located on the Plains Thompson Falls Ranger Districts along the Thompson River. The proposed project is looking at restoration treatments in the Wildland Urban Interface 10 miles from the Clark Fork River. In addition to the proposed EMB, this was the same area that burned in the Copper King Wildfire. This project has been deferred, and it is unknown if it will be brought forward in the near future.